



# Warfare in American History

This is why we fight...



# Know your nation's wars...

The United States has been involved in more wars than we may care to reflect upon. However, you will need to know the causes, the turning points, and the consequences of each of the conflicts in this presentation to be fully prepared for the Virginia SOL Test in US-VA History.

And you need to know the differences between the wars!



# American Wars, 1775 - Present

- The Revolutionary War 1775 – 1781
- The War of 1812 1812 - 1815
- The Mexican-American War 1846 – 1848
- The Civil War 1861 – 1865
- The Plains Wars 1860s – 1890s
- The Spanish-American War 1898
- World War I, US Participation 1917 - 1918
- World War II, US Participation 1941 – 1945
- The Cold War 1945 - 1991
- The Korean War 1950 - 1953
- The Vietnam War, US Participation 1964 - 1975
- The Persian Gulf War 1991
- Afghanistan: The War on Terror 2001 – Present
- The Iraq War 2003 - 2012

# The Revolutionary War





# Causes of the Revolutionary War

- The Stamp Act
- “Taxation Without Representation!”
- The Boston Massacre
- The Boston Tea Party
- The Intolerable Acts
- American Patriots wanted independence from England, and fought for it during this war!

# Turning Points in the Revolutionary War, 1775 - 1781

- The Battle of Trenton: Washington Crosses the Delaware, wins a victory, and gets soldiers in the Continental Army to re-enlist!
- The Battle of Saratoga: General John Burgoyne's Army is forced to surrender, and the French join our side!
- The Battle of Yorktown: Cornwallis surrenders to Washington (and Lafayette, and Rochambeau, and De Grasse) and the Americans win the war!



# Results of the War



The Treaty of Paris of 1783 gives the United States its independence, and all of the land to the Mississippi River. The thirteen English colonies were now the United States of America.

# The War of 1812



The United States fought against England for a second time between 1812 and 1815. Some historians consider this a second American Revolution. England had continued to treat Americans with contempt – by occupying Western forts and impressing (kidnapping) American soldiers until the war began. They also harassed American trade vessels in the Caribbean and in European ports.



# Causes of the War of 1812

- English impressment – or kidnapping – of American soldiers on the open seas.
- English soldiers remained in some of the western forts in the Ohio River Valley, and were blamed for encouraging Indians to attack Americans.
- The English navy had interfered with American trade vessels in the Atlantic.
- James Madison gave in to the War Hawks.

# Turning Points in the War of 1812

- The British burned down the White House and most of Washington, D.C.
- The British, who had been occupied by war in Europe, ran out of money!
- Just after the war officially came to an end with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, Andrew Jackson won a decisive victory over the British at the Battle of New Orleans.

# Consequences of the War

- The United States earned the respect of European Nations. If we could stand up to the British – and even win the Battle of New Orleans – then we must be more formidable than they had previously thought. Europe was put on notice.
- Also, Native American tribes were driven west of the Mississippi River for the most part.



# The Mexican-American War





## Prequel: The Texas War for Independence, 1835

So, to begin with, we need to understand Texas. Texas was originally a part of Mexico. When Stephen F. Austin brought 300 American families to the region, they promised to be Catholic, non-slaveholders, and loyal to Mexico. But they lied. In 1835, Santa Anna led an army into Texas to put down the Texans aspirations for independence. He would not be successful.

# The Texas War for Independence

Santa Anna did win the Battle of the Alamo; however, the military genius of Sam Houston proved too much for him. In 1836, Santa Anna was captured and forced – against his will – to surrender his army and allow Texas its independence. He would later protest this as a coerced surrender and that Texas' independence was not legitimately won.



*"Remember  
the Alamo!"*



# Causes of the Mexican-American War, 1846 - 1848

- The annexation of Texas, and American insistence that the border was at the Rio Grande, not the Nueces River.
- James K. Polk wanted California.
- Aggression on the part of American soldiers, at the insistence of James K. Polk.
- Many Americans believed Polk wanted to add land to create “slave states.”

# The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo



The United States defeated Mexico and took the entire Mexican Cession region – including California, and Texas, and the land that became seven other western states in the United States of America.



# The Civil War





# Causes of the Civil War

- The Civil War was caused by

**S-L-A-V-E-R-Y**

(Some call it “states rights” or economic differences, or social traditions.)

- The Election of Abraham Lincoln.
- The Secession of the Southern States.

# Turning Points in the Civil War

- *The Battle of Antietam* – which led to the Emancipation Proclamation and changed the meaning of the war.
- *The Battle of Gettysburg* – which crippled Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia going forward.
- *The Battle of Vicksburg* – giving the North control of the Mississippi River.
- *Appomattox Court House* – Lee's surrender.

# Consequences of the Civil War

- Over 600,000 Americans die.
- Slavery comes to an end – the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments change the lives of 5 million African-Americans.
- The Confederate States of America are destroyed, and the notion of secession is banned. The United States is “indivisible.” The supremacy of the federal government is established and the nature of American citizenship is changed.



# The Plains Wars: Imperial Design



# Major Battles of the Plains Wars

- The US government instituted a policy of placing Native Americans on reservations.
- The buffalo were slaughtered, preventing nomadic lifestyles from continuing.
- Military force was used in order to place Native American tribes on to reservations and to keep them there.
- The Battle of Little Bighorn (US defeat)
- The Nez Perce Campaign
- The Wounded Knee Massacre

# Consequences of the Plains Wars

- Native American tribes were defeated and forced to live on the reservations.
- Once railroads extended into every region of the West, American settlers soon occupied all of the land west of the Mississippi River.
- In 1890, even before the Wounded Knee Massacre, the “Frontier” was declared closed by the US Census Bureau.



# The Spanish-American War



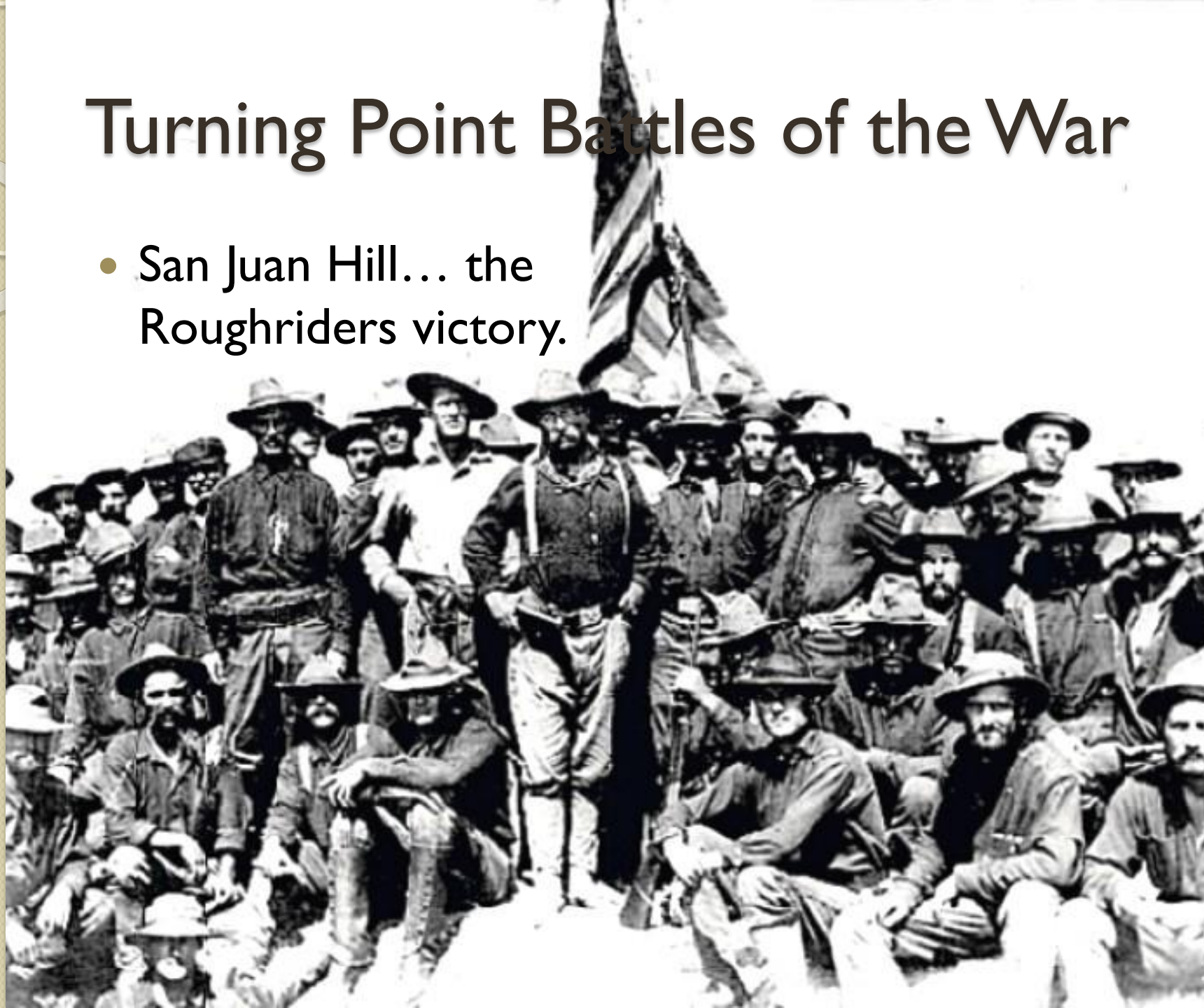


# Causes of the Spanish American War, 1898 – The Filipino Rebellion

- Spanish atrocities in Cuba were reported to the American public by yellow journalists – who were willing to exaggerate in order to sell copies of newspapers.
- The USS *Maine* exploded in Havana Harbor, Cuba, on February 15, 1898, and it was believed to be the work of an enemy.
- The “de Lome” letters insulted President William McKinley.

# Turning Point Battles of the War

- San Juan Hill... the Roughriders victory.



# Consequences of the War

- The Treaty of Paris of 1898 gave the United States:

Guam

Puerto Rico

Cuba – as a protectorate.

The Philippines - \$20 Million

- The United States established itself as an empire, ruling over foreign lands.



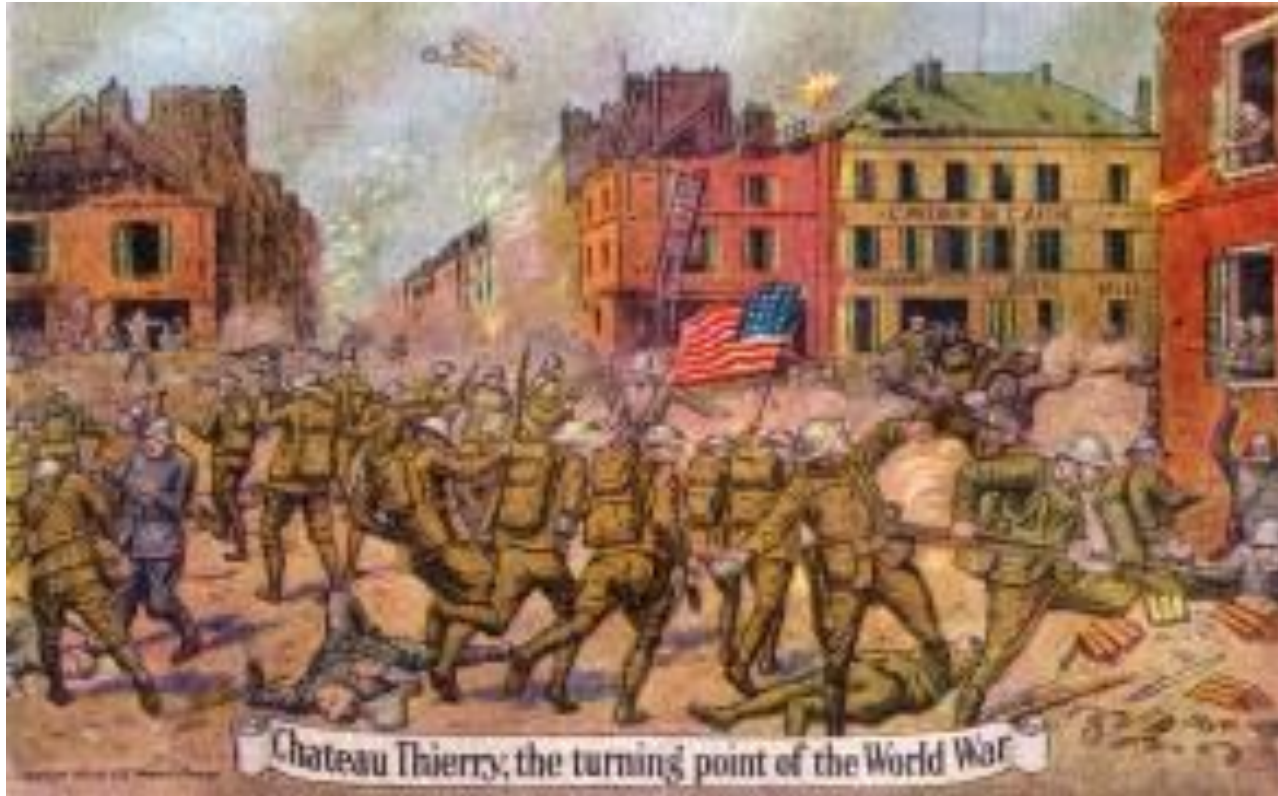
# World War I: 1917 - 1918



# Cause of American Involvement

- The United States tried to stay out of World War I as long as they could.
- The sinking of the *Lusitania* by German U-Boats.
- Unrestricted submarine warfare targeting American vessels.
- The Zimmermann Telegram.
- Woodrow Wilson's plan to make the world "Safe for Democracy" by fighting a war "To End all War."

# Turning Point?



The popular understanding of World War I is that America's decision to enter the conflict in 1917 was the turning point in the war. The Germans, barely holding on at that point, simply capitulated.



# Consequences of the War

- Millions and millions of Europeans are dead.
- The United States of America ends its longstanding policy of isolationism towards Europe.
- Germany is punished by the Treaty of Versailles, which leaves many nations in Europe unsatisfied and leads, in part, to the Second World War.

# The Treaty of Versailles

- Woodrow Wilson's 14-Point Plan was the backbone of the Treaty of Versailles. It promised freedom of the seas, an end to secret treaties, reduced militarism, an end to colonialism, and the self-determination of nations. It also created the League of Nations.
- The US Senate, led by Henry Cabot Lodge, refused to ratify the treaty – ever!

# World War II: 1941 - 1945



# Causes of American Involvement

- Nazi aggression by Hitler in Europe: Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Poland...
- Fascist aggression from Italy under Mussolini.
- Japanese aggression led by Tojo in China and Southeast Asia.
- The Atlantic Charter signed between Winston Churchill and FDR.
- The Bombing of Pearl Harbor: Dec. 7, 1941.



# Turning Points in the War

## Turning Point in the Pacific Theatre of War:

The Battle of Midway Island (US Navy defeats Japan)

## Turning Point in the European Theatre:

The D-Day Invasion – June 6, 1944 (US-England-Canada defeat Nazi Germany)

US acquires the atomic bomb in the summer of 1945 and uses the weapon on August 6, 1945 (Hiroshima) and August 9, 1945 (Nagasaki)

# Consequences of World War II

Nazi Germany is defeated, occupied, and rebuilt in two separate parts:

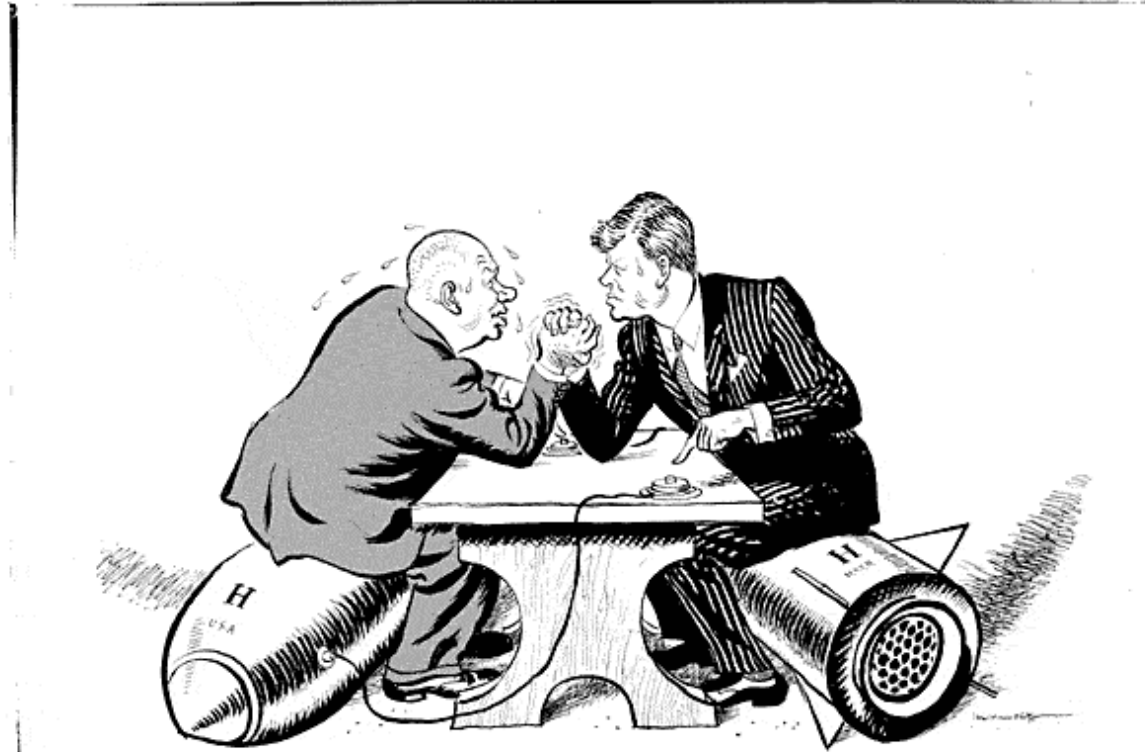
West Germany – capitalist, democratic

East Germany – communist totalitarian

Japan is occupied by the United States and under General Douglas MacArthur becomes a democratic and capitalist nation, militarily dependent on the United States.

The Cold War begins, as mistrust between the United States and the Soviet Union develops at the end of the war. The Soviet Union refuses to allow democratic elections in Eastern European nations.

# The Cold War: US vs. USSR



The Cold War was a war of ideologies between the United States and the Soviet Union between 1945 and 1991. In general, it was not a fighting war between the US and the USSR directly. There was lots of posturing and threatening each other, though, from both sides. Occasionally, “hot wars” broke out. Eventually the United States, capitalism and democracy prevailed over the communist USSR.

# Causes of the Cold War

- The USSR is communist and totalitarian and views capitalists as economic imperialists who will take over poor nations.
- The USA is capitalist and democratic and views the communists as aggressive, totalitarian despots who rob people of their liberty.
- Soviet Union occupies Eastern Europe and attempts to spread communism internationally by overthrowing capitalist, democratic governments.



# The Cold War: US vs. USSR



# Major Events in the Cold War

- The Berlin Airlift – Soviet attempt to take over Berlin thwarted.
- The Korean War – 1950 – 1953, which ends in a stalemate, as Communist China enters the conflict.
- The Cuban Missile Crisis – JFK and Khrushchev take the world to the brink of nuclear holocaust.
- The Vietnam War – Soviet aid to the Vietnamese and the refusal of the Viet Cong to bow to enormous American power over a decade long war leads to communist victory.
- Fall of the Berlin Wall (1989) and dissolution of the USSR into present day Russia (1991).

# Leaders of the US and Soviet Union

- Harry S Truman – stands up to Stalin during the Berlin Airlift and with the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plans.
- John F. Kennedy VS. Nikita Khrushchev: The Cuban Missile Crisis.
- Lyndon Johnson – gets United States mired in the Vietnam War.
- President Nixon and Sec. of State Henry Kissinger negotiated end to Vietnam...
- Ronald Reagan and Michael Gorbachev negotiate an end to the Cold War, as the Soviet Union was wrecked economically.



# The Consequences of the Cold War

- The United States becomes involved in world affairs as never before, creates NATO, spends billions on foreign aid, fights in several long, bitter wars, and eventually, wins.
- The Soviet Union's communist economy is unable to evolve as rapidly as the free markets of the United States, and discontent among their people leads to internal rebellion. It loses its empire and collapses in 1991.



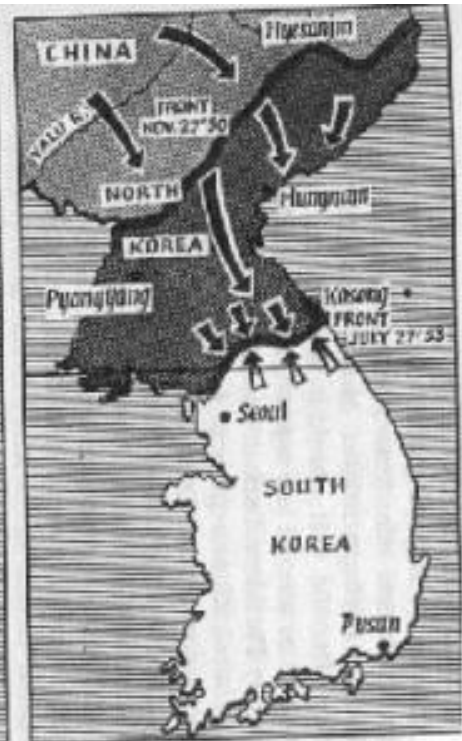
# The Korean War



June to September 1950  
Opening situation—North Korean  
penetration to the Pusan Perimeter



September to November 1950  
United Nations counterattack



November 1950 to July 1953  
Toward the cease-fire line

THE KOREAN WAR: THREE PHASES

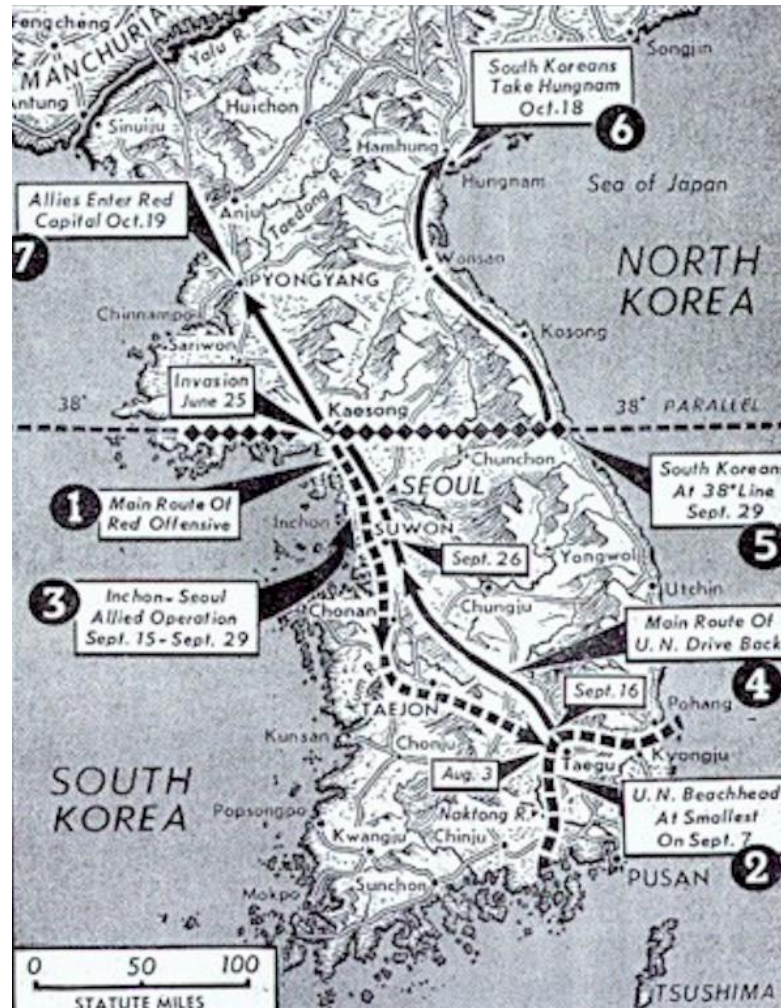
# Causes of the Korean War

- The Soviet Union installed a communist government in North Korea at the end of World War II.
- The leader of North Korea, Kim Il Sung attempted to attack and take over South Korea in an act of naked aggression – with the tacit approval of both the Soviet Union and Communist China.
- The United States – with support from the UN – fought to liberate South Korea. Having adopted a policy of containment, the US sought to prevent the spread of communism everywhere!

# Turning Points in the Korean War

- Kim Il Sung attacks South Korea.
- The US gets permission from the United Nations to liberate South Korea, and under Douglas MacArthur, invades.
- After liberating South Korea, MacArthur invades North Korea.
- The Chinese entered the war, pushing Americans out of North Korea.
- The war ends in a stalemate.

# Consequences of the Korean War



The Korean War ended in a stalemate, and the current situation on the Korean peninsula has been the result. North Korea has been led by the same family – Kim Il Sung, Kim Jung Il and now, Kim Jung Un, since the 1950s. That nation has fallen into economic despair and a cult like celebration of it's dictatorial leader. Meanwhile, South Korea is a prosperous and thriving democracy.



# The Vietnam War



# Causes of US Involvement in the Vietnam War, 1964 - 1975

- The Domino Theory: Americans feared that if communism spread to one nation, that neighboring nations would be threatened as well. If Vietnam fell, then Laos, Cambodia, and the Philippines might be threatened, too.
- The Gulf of Tonkin Incident of 1964 – Vietnamese gunboats attacked the USS *Turner Joy*? Really?

# Turning Point in the Vietnam War

- Many Americans opposed the brutal war against the Vietnamese, which killed millions of civilians. Doves and Hawks caused enormous social conflict in the United States.
- The Tet Offensive of 1968. When the Vietnamese struck against Americans in a coordinated effort in January of 1968, many Americans became convinced that the war was not going as well as previously assumed.
- The Vietnam War was EXPENSIVE – both in terms of money and in terms of American lives which were lost: over 58,000.



# Consequences of the Vietnam War

- Americans withdrew from Vietnam, and the world's most powerful military was defeated by the Viet Cong.
- Communists took over Vietnam.
- Many Americans began to view the Cold War in a different light, concerned that overextending the United States military could do more harm than good.



# The Persian Gulf War



# Causes of the Persian Gulf War

- Saddam Hussein attacked the sovereign nation of Kuwait in the summer of 1991.
- Fearing instability in the Middle East region and concerned that American allies in the area like Saudi Arabia and Israel may be at risk from an aggressive Hussein, the United States – led by President George H.W. Bush – formed a large coalition of nations to restore Kuwaiti independence.

# The Results of the Persian Gulf War

- The Persian Gulf War accomplished some of its objectives, but not all.
- Kuwait was restored to independence.
- Iraq was invaded, but George H.W. Bush decided not to pursue actual regime change. He allowed Saddam Hussein to stay in power, but occupied the northern and southern sections of the country, applied sanctions, and established “no-fly” zones supervised by the US military.
- Angered that American soldiers had set up military bases in Saudi Arabia, Osama Bin Laden created Al Qaeda, an terrorist group intended to murder Americans and prevent their influence in the Islamic holy lands – like Saudi Arabia, the site of Mecca.

# The War in Afghanistan





# Accomplishments of the War

- The War in Afghanistan started because the Taliban – a theocratic Islamic fundamentalist dictatorship – allowed Al-Qaeda to train murderous terrorists in their nation.
- The United States routed the Taliban out of Afghanistan, and has been attempting to create a new, democratic government there, which protects individual rights.
- On May 1, 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed in Pakistan.

# The Iraq War



# Causes of the Iraq War

- The United States invaded Iraq in 2003, in order to force regime change in that nation.
- The Bush Administration charged that the Iraqis had stockpiled weapons of mass destruction and were a threat to the region.
- No weapons of mass destruction were recovered.

# Results and Accomplishments of the War in Iraq

- Saddam Hussein was captured, put on trial for crimes against humanity and crimes against his own Iraqi people, and put to death by hanging.
- Civil war erupted in Iraq. Hundreds of thousands of men and women were killed in clashes which resulted from the vacuum of power once Hussein was removed.
- Tens of thousands of Americans died in the effort to restore order and establish a representative government in Iraq.
- Today, a fledgling democracy is emerging in Iraq, with all the difficulties which usually accompany a new government.